

## CLAIMS

1. A frequency synthesizer, comprising:  
a digitally controlled oscillator, including multiple groups of switched capacitors;  
multiple control circuits coupled to respective groups of capacitors, where the multiple control circuits sequentially control the respective groups of capacitors responsive to a phase error signal during sequential modes; and  
a phase detection circuit for generating the phase error signal, said phase detection circuit including circuitry for setting the phase error signal to a predetermined value responsive to a mode switch.

2. The frequency synthesizer of claim 1 wherein said phase detection circuit also sets the phase error signal to the predetermined value responsive to a startup control signal.

3. The frequency synthesizer of claim 1 wherein said phase detection circuit includes multiple phase calculators.

4. The frequency synthesizer of claim 3 wherein each of said multiple phase calculators generate a respective phase output and wherein said phase detection circuit further includes circuitry for generating the phase error signal from the phase outputs using a predetermined formula.

5. The frequency synthesizer of claim 4 wherein one of said phase calculators, responsive to a mode switch, generates its phase output from the phase outputs of the other phase calculators using a second predetermined formula.

6. The frequency synthesizer of claim 5 wherein generating the phase output using said second predetermined formula minimizes the phase error.

7. The frequency synthesizer of claim 5 wherein said one phase  
calculator comprises:  
circuitry for calculating a first phase output by accumulating a frequency  
control word;  
circuitry for calculating a second phase output using said second  
predetermined formula; and  
circuitry for switching between said first and second phase outputs.

8. The frequency synthesizer of claim 1 wherein one or more of said  
control circuits include circuitry for maintaining an output to its respective group  
of capacitors at the end of a mode.

9. A method of generating a desired frequency, comprising the steps  
of:  
controlling a multiple groups of switched capacitors in a digitally  
controlled oscillator responsive to a phase error signal, using respective multiple  
control circuits coupled to said groups of capacitors, said control circuits  
operating sequentially during sequential modes;  
generating the phase error signal during said modes and setting the phase  
error signal to a predetermined value responsive to a mode switch.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein said generating step also sets the  
phase error signal to the predetermined value responsive to a startup control  
signal.

11. The method of claim 9 wherein said generating step includes the  
step of calculating multiple phase measurements.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein said generating step includes the  
step of calculating the phase error signal from the phase measurements using a  
predetermined formula.

13. The method of claim 12 and further comprising the step of setting  
one of said phase measurements is set to a value based on the other phase  
measurements using a second predetermined formula responsive to a mode  
switch.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein said step of setting one of the  
phase measurements to a value based on the other phase measurements causes a  
minimal phase error.

15. The method of claim 13 wherein said step of setting said one phase  
measurement comprises the steps of:  
calculating a first phase output by accumulating a frequency control  
word;  
calculating a second phase output using said second predetermined  
formula; and  
switching between said first and second phase outputs.

16. The method of claim 9 and further comprising the step of  
maintaining an output to a respective group of capacitors at the end of a mode.